EXCISE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/08
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS☒
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156105
E.O. 12065: GDS - 6/15/87 (MCFARLANE, ROBERT)
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US
SUBJECT: SAUD'S REMARK ON ISSUES AND ANSWERS
1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE, PREPARED FOR DEPT SPOKESMAN, IS DESIGNED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT SHOULD PRESS RAISE THE IMPLICATION PRINCE SAUD CONVEYED IN THE ISSUES AND ANSWERS INTERVIEW.
QUESTION: ON ISSUES AND ANSWERS JUNE 14, SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL, IN ADDRESSING THE ISRAELI RAID ON THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY, MADE A REMARK IMPLYING THAT THE US HAD SUSPENDED F-16 SALES BECAUSE IT HAD DETERMINED THAT ISRAEL HAD VIOLATED THE 1952 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS?
ANSWER: -- THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO THE CONGRESS OF JUNE 10 STATES QUITE CLEARLY "I MUST REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION OF THE 1952 AGREEMENT
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MAY HAVE OCCURRED." AS THE LETTER INDICATES, WE ARE CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE MATTER AND WILL INFORM THE CONGRESS OF OUR DELIBERATIONS ON THE RESPONSES WARRANTED.
-- AS TO THE SUSPENSION OF DELIVERY OF FOUR F-16 AIRCRAFT, THE SECRETARY'S LETTER EXPLAINS THIS AS FOLLOWS: "WHILE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL CONTINUE, AND WHILE YOUR COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING THIS MATTER, THE PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED THE SUSPENSION FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT OF FOUR F-16 AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK."
2. [redacted] B3-1

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